THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN
(USPS 630-800)
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
IN THE HEART OF VIRGINIA'S DARK TOBACCO BELT
Appomattox, Virginia 24522
ESTABLISHED IN 1892

N. Lloyd Vaughan ..... Publisher and Editor
Beck Hudson ..... News Editor

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Appomattox, Virginia, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all correspondence to THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN, P.O. Box 665, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

Subscription rates: $7.50 a year in Appomattox, and all adjoining counties, $8.50 elsewhere in Virginia, Outside Virginia $9.00, payable in advance.
Member: Virginia Press Association

Single Copy: 20 cents

Letter To The Editor

Double Taxation!

As a property owner in both Charlotte and Appomattox Counties the following hits me right in my wallet - the tax rate per hundred is exactly double in Appomattox as that of Charlotte - unbelievable that such a difference could exist between two adjacent rural counties.

Charlotte County gives its citizens services that are equal on half the tax rate as does Appomattox County. What is wrong?

The tax levy in Charlotte is only .30 per hundred - in Appomatox .60 per hundred.

The tax rate is established by the board of supervisors in both counties, which governing body do you think has the tax paying citizen at heart? I trust with two new members going on our board in Appomattox, that they can also adopt a budget that will permit a .30 per hundred rate.

I would like for the three supervisors to comment on this in your "Letters to Editor Column.

Thank you
Kenneth L. Marston-
Rt. 1 Box 461
Appomattox, Va.

Nathan Gregory Celebrated Birthday

Nathan Gregory Celebrated his 8th birthday recently with a party at A. J. Skateworld. Attending, and shown in photo, were Dean Nash, Brett Stratton, Latisha Wooten, "Nathan", Mary Anna Hale, Ron Gregory, David Evans, Jennifer Alvis, Casey Clabough, Kathy Chambers, Warren Moore, Laura Bradley, Heather Bryan and Dustin Wilhoit.

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The Pastor Speaks

Dealing with Heartache

"Now abideth faith, hope, and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love." (1Corinthians 13:13 KJV)

Heartache is that deep sense of personal loss, sorrow, grief, or loneliness that can come to an individual as a result of many things. Probably the most frequent causes of heartache are the following:

1. Death of a husband, wife, son, daughter, mother, father, close relative or friend.
2. Divorce or separation in marriage.
3. Rejection by loved ones (real or imagined).
4. Illness and suffering (one's own or that of a loved one).
5. Loss or diminishing of one's personal faith. (A feeling that God no longer loves me or that God doesn't care about what happens to me!)
6. Loss of reputation.
7. Loss of job.
8. Failure which produces a feeling of worthlessness.

All of us will experience at least one or more of the above "heartaches" in life. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians gives us three keys to unlocking our heartaches. First, the key of **faith**–faith that trusts God no matter what happens! Second, the key of **hope**–hope that will release the power of God in our lives to help us deal patiently with all of our trials and tribulations. Third, the key of **love**–love that knows no boundaries too broad, no valleys too deep, nor mountains too high, knowing that God will always be there with us. The Holy Spirit, our great Comforter, will show us the way one day at a time, as we reach forth unto that "holy city whose builder and maker is God."

Clarence H. Davis, Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church
Appomattox, Virginia

The Bible And Daily Living

By Dr. William L. Trimyer

The Bible and Daily Living
Evil and The New Creation
Lesson for November 25, 1979
Scripture Reference: Eph. 5:21-6:24
Focal Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20
The Battle With Evil

In most of us there is a deep desire for freedom from struggle and conflict. We look for a path that will lead us to safety away from those "forces" which seek to do us in. The Christian pilgrimage is rarely a "Primrose Lane" experience! We live in a world of bitters and sweets, death and life, crying and laughing, hate and love, and peace and war. No one of us is immune from hard times and the struggle to make it in a world tht offers limitless opportunities for defeat and tragedy.

Paul wrote to the early Christians in the Ephesian church to help them understand what they were up against in their effort to be God's people. There is no getting around it, God is our surest means for coping with the forces of evil. Faith helps us to make sense out of all the nonsense around us. Paul affirms that the Lord is our source of strength for waging the battles of life–both physical and spiritual.

God gives to us certain "equipment" with which to fight our battles. Through the help of God we may become victors rather than victims. It is true that some of our most difficult struggles in life are not "with flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in this world." Behind the "flesh and blood" forces there exists a powerful force that goes against the grain of God's intentional good.

And what are these "powers of darkness" which threaten us? They are legion in number. Sin itself is a manifestation of evil powers. Such powers make themselves known throughout our society and world. Sin may express itself through acts of "flesh and blood," but its roots go far below the surface. When we "buy in" and allow the forces of evil to take control, we see the visible evidence of the invisible powers which create havoc in our life and world.

The Age of Enlightenment moved away from a belief in demonic forces, but today we are having to take a new look at us. Many of us live in our own hell on earth. Our battles are acute and painful. We need help!

God's Helpful Armor

We cannot go through life unprotected. The power of God is stronger than any evil force or power of darkness. God us the means to rise above evil and become the sons and daughters of the Divine Kingdom.

It is a good feeling to come to the end of a painful struggle and survive. It is inspiring to come to the place in life where we are removed from some unpleasant moment in life. The need for healing and peace of mind is present within most people. With the help of God's protective armor, we will both "stand" and "withstand," that is, we can face the enemy and survive. We may come away scarred and weary, but we will at least come away as a wounded pilgrim who has God as a friend.

Here are some things we take into every battle to help us wage our best fight. The **belt of truth** is the salvation we experience as a result of our personal encounter with Christ. The **breastplate of righteousness** is our sense of personal integrity, namely, going at life in the same spirit that Jesus went at life. **Well shod feet** means that we travel through life with a sense of enthusiasm. Our **shield of faith** may mean that Christ our leader will protect us in battle. Our **helmet of salvation** refers to our security or hope that beyond these earthly battles we will know only peace. Of course, the **sword of the spirit** is the word of God which serves as our guide throughout life.

Our weapon for entering any battle, whether it be flesh and blood or powers of darkness, is that of prayer. Communication with the Author of life will aid us in our pilgrimage.

Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin, Va.

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Thanks A Lot - For What?

Once again Americans will have taken time out to observe the oldest of our national traditions - a day of Thanksgiving.

For millions it will probably mean no more than a welcomed day off, a big meal and football.

Those who think at all about its origin must have asked themselves what in the world there is to be thankful for this year, what with rising prices, gasoline worries, disputes over nuclear power, foreign governments problems, the frenzy of Christmas shopping and taxes, taxes, taxes - thanks for nothing!

Well, change signals for a minute...

There is so much Americans should be thankful for, it's easy to lose track. Dozens of the everyday things we take for granted - "It's my right, isn't it?" - still are unattainable dreams to millions of people on earth.

Who do you know who can't read and write? We have a literacy rate of 98% among all Americans over 15 years of age. We have 12,000 public libraries in the U. S. There are more man 400,000 churches. All Americans can worship as they please in the faith of their choice - or in none.

You can say what you please, so long as you don't slander others or debase them maliciously. Even if you do, you won't land in jail, though you may be sued.

We all have the right to dissent. If you don't like the government, or your landlord, or the quality of life, you can say so loud, clear and often. Nobody can make you be quiet.

Your neighbors may not like what you say, but most will defend your right to say it.

Want to cuss the President? Your privilege. Want to defend him? Okay. Want to argue about it? No law against it. Try it in some other countries and you'll wind up in jail or in an insane asylum. Disagree with the powers-that-be in such places, and you'll be branded as crazy and a menace to society - their society that is.

False arrest is almost unheard of in the United States. False imprisonment is even more rare. If you are accused of a crime and can't afford a lawyer, the court will provide one.

If you don't like your job, you can always quit and take another. If you want to leave the country, go ahead. Nobody in authority will stop you unless you're fleeing the law. If you want to come back, you may.

If you don't like where you live, you are free to move to a new neighborhood. More than any other nation, we are a nation of landowners. It may be a condominium, a country estate, or a lot with nothing on it but a mortgage, but it's yours.

American families, by and large, are the best housed, the best fed, and best cared for on earth. There is poverty-but poverty by our definiton would be sheer luxury to others. The latest advances in care for the ailing are readily available, often through complete strangers.

It's easy to forget that Americans are the most "giving people in history. Private donations to charity in the U. S. exceed the total national budget of many counties.

We have a government of law. And the law, like the rain, falls equally on everything and everybody.

Of course, you can't pollute the public water supply. You can't shoot deer out of season. You can't be a reckless driver. If you are a nuisance, your neighbor can call the police, others have their rights, too, you know.

This is a free county - and, come to think of it, everyday is -

Thanksgiving Day
Kim R. Ferguson

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